



2005 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 47

July 5, 2005 – Introduced by Representatives PETTIS and HUBLER, cosponsored by Senator HARSDORF. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** honoring the life and public service of Gaylord Nelson.

2 Whereas, Gaylord Nelson was born on June 4, 1916, in Clear Lake, Wisconsin;

3 and

4 Whereas, Gaylord Nelson served his nation honorably during World War II
5 from 1942 to 1946, taking part in the Okinawa campaign; and

6 Whereas, Gaylord Nelson served for 10 years in the Wisconsin state senate from
7 1949 to 1959; and

8 Whereas, Gaylord Nelson served 2 terms as governor of Wisconsin; and

9 Whereas, Gaylord Nelson represented the state of Wisconsin in the United
10 States Senate for 18 years, from 1962 to 1980; and

11 Whereas, Gaylord Nelson was responsible for legislation that preserved the
12 Appalachian Trail, the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, and the St. Croix Wild
13 and Scenic Riverway; and

14 Whereas, Gaylord Nelson founded Earth Day in 1970, inspiring people around
15 the world to protect and preserve our environment; and

1 Whereas, Gaylord Nelson has continued to be a national leader on
2 environmental issues through his work on behalf of The Wilderness Society; and

3 Whereas, Gaylord Nelson has been twice honored by the United Nations, in
4 1982 with the Environmental Leadership Award, and on Earth Day, 1992, with the
5 Only One Earth Award; and

6 Whereas, Gaylord Nelson was honored in 1995 with the Presidential Medal of
7 Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian award, for his instrumental role in founding
8 Earth Day and inspiring future environmental legislation such as the
9 Environmental Protection Act, the Clean Air Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act;
10 and

11 Whereas, in 2001 the Warren Knowles–Gaylord Nelson Stewardship program
12 was established in honor of his lifelong commitment to public stewardship and the
13 environment; and

14 Whereas, Gaylord Nelson never forgot his Polk County roots, always
15 remembering that he was born a small town boy from Clear Lake, subscribing to the
16 Clear Lake newspaper until his death; and

17 Whereas, Gaylord Nelson passed away on July 3, 2005, at the age of 89, leaving
18 behind a legacy that will continue to impact future generations; and

19 Whereas, Gaylord Nelson personified the spirit of advocacy based on principle,
20 living up to his attitude on life embodied in his quote, “The ultimate test of a man’s
21 conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations
22 whose words of thanks will not be heard”; now, therefore, be it

23 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the
24 Wisconsin legislature commemorate the remarkable life of service of Gaylord Nelson
25 to the people of Wisconsin and to the environment; and, be it further

